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Fall 9-1-2021

PHL 110E.R01: Introduction to Ethics

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Recommended Citation

Clark, Bridget, "PHL 110E.R01: Introduction to Ethics" (2021). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 12402.

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Fall 2021

Philosophy 110: Introduction to Ethics

Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:20am

Zoom Link: <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/94125847948>

Professor Bridget Clarke

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In general, human beings seek not the way of their ancestors, but the good.
—Aristotle, *Politics* 1269a3-4 (350 B.C.E.)

This course introduces you to the major approaches to the study of ethics within the Western philosophical tradition, a tradition that reaches all the way from antiquity to the present. We begin, however, with some popular ways of thinking that generate resistance to the study of ethics. The course should equip you to think more deeply about your own life, about your society, and about what life should be like.

Required Texts (Please note: No e-books allowed)

Julia Driver, *Ethics: The Fundamentals*

I've placed all other readings on [Moodle](#) (M). You'll also find a copy of the syllabus there. For more information on how to access Moodle, login and then select Moodle 101 for students (or ask a friend).

Grade Breakdown

1. Exam #1 (9/28) 25%
2. Exam #2 (10/28) 25%
3. Exam #3 (12/16) 40%
4. Participation 10%

The exams will be multiple-choice and short answer based on the lectures and readings. Missed exams cannot normally be made up.

Email

Any email that I send to the class will be sent to your university email address. Be sure to check your university email on a regular basis.

Disabilities

Please let me know at the beginning of the term if you'll need accommodations from the Office for Disability Equity (ODE, formerly DSS). If you need to take your exams through ODE, you must

arrange this in advance, and you must provide verification of your disability from ODE. You can find more information on the [Office for Disability Equality website](#).

Attendance and Etiquette

I value your attendance and thoughtful participation. Come to class regularly, don't be afraid to ask questions, and get notes from a colleague or teaching assistant if you have to miss. We'll be taking attendance intermittently. Everyone gets two absences (whatever the reason). After that, your participation grade goes down with each additional absence.

Please be on time to our meetings, mute your mic unless you're speaking, and keep your video on. Let me know if you have technological issues. Create a space for your thoughts. Put your cell phone away and turn off the ringer, refrain from playing on devices during our meeting. In brief: do your best to be present, focused, and considerate.

Academic Misconduct

Cheating will be punished in accordance with the [UM Student Conduct code](#). The exams are closed-note: no cell phones or other devices may be used during the taking of exams.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Changes to the schedule are possible! (M)=Moodle

T 8/31 Welcome. Here's what you need to know about the course.

Part I: Some Context and Four Popular Sources of Resistance to Normative Ethics

H 9/2 *Ethics Described*. Reading: Driver, 1-10

T 9/7 *The Psychology of Evil. Asch and Milgram*. No Reading.

H 9/9 *Relativism (Subjectivism)*. Reading: Driver, 11-18

T 9/14 *Cultural Relativism* Reading: Appiah, (M); Driver, 18-21

H 9/16 *Divine Command Theory and Nihilism*. Reading: Driver, 22-31; 170-179

T 9/21 *Egoism*. Reading: Driver, 31-39; [Short film: "Facing History"]

H 9/23 *Exam Q-and-A*

T 9/28 **Exam 1**

H 9/30 *Hume and the Power of Sympathy*. No Reading.

T 10/5 *Classical Utilitarianism*. (Bentham) Reading: Driver, 40-47

H 10/7 *Classical Utilitarianism*. (Mill and Nozick) Reading: Driver, 47-57

T 10/12 *Utilitarianism and Justice*. Reading: Driver, 61-66

H 10/14 *Utilitarianism and Justice continued*. Reading: Hare (M)

T 10/19 *Trolley Interlude. Reflective Equilibrium*. Reading: TBA

H 10/21 **No Class**

T 10/26 *Exam Q-and-A*

H 10/28 **Exam 2**

T 11/2 *Kant's Ethics* (the good (autonomous) will). Reading: Driver, 80-87
H 11/4 *Kant's Ethics* (the categorical imperative - FUL). Reading: Same

T 11/9 *Kant's Ethics* (the categorical imperative - FH). Reading: Driver, 90-101
H 11/11 **No Class. Veteran's Day**

T 11/16 *Kant's Ethics* (goodness vs. happiness; applications and criticisms). Reading: Same.
11/18 *Aristotle's Ethics* (Eudaimonia). Reading: Driver, 136-146; Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* I (M)

T 11/23 TBA
H 11/25 No Class. Thanksgiving.

T 11/30 *Aristotle's Ethics* (Virtue of Character). Reading *Nicomachean Ethics* II (M)
H 12/2 *Aristotle's Ethics* (Virtue continued). No new reading.

T 12/7 *Aristotle's Ethics* (Non-Virtuous States; How Virtue is Acquired). Reading: Bennett (M)
H 12/9 *Exam Q-and-A*

Final Exam 10:10a-12:10p Thursday, December 16
Location TBA